

Indiana State Parks Centennial and Indiana Bicentennial Celebrations

Our Centennial Goals

- Honor and communicate our place in Indiana's history as a state centennial birthday gift to Hoosiers.
- Participate in Indiana's State Bicentennial Celebration statewide and in local state park communities.
- Honor 100 years of state park leadership and significant events.
- Introduce new individuals, families and diverse audiences to state parks.
- Inspire today's youth to make memories naturally that connect them to parks for life as users, staff, and leaders.
- Connect Hoosiers to Indiana's important place in the parks movement (national, state and local) from the early 1900s to today.
- Create a legacy that includes both physical structures, significant events and a focus on the next generation of park users and park needs.
- Celebrate and have fun— we're 100! (How often does THAT happen?)



System-Wide DNR-Led Centennial Activities

- **Indiana State Parks Centennial Launch: Countdown to 100**, with activities, food and presentations at McCormicks Creek (am), Indianapolis (noon – press/public event) and Turkey Run (pm). (December 16, 2015)
- **100 Days for 100 Years** - Saturday, May 28 – Sunday, September 4. This will feature at least one history-related activity each day somewhere in our system.
- **1916 Price Rollback** - Charging 10 cents per person at gates across the system, which was the original 1916 entry rate. (June 4-5, 1916).
- **Centennial Pass Library Check-Out Program** – one annual pass placed in each of Indiana's 240 public libraries to encourage first-time visitors to try a visit to a state park (in partnership with Indiana State Library).
- **Indiana State Parks Centennial Curriculum** – 4th Grade Focus but available to all grades at www.stateparks.IN.gov/8280.htm. Any classroom or group that uses the curriculum and sends us photos receives a single-day pass for each student that students can use with their families.
- **Centennial Curriculum Workshops** – Teacher workshops to introduce the centennial curriculum.
- **Centennial Geocaching Challenge** – Geocaches in all state parks with a “Bingo” style card for collecting stickers. Entries participate in end-of-the season prize drawing. Those who visit all caches receive a free centennial coin.
- **Centennial Fitness Challenge** – Walk, ride, run or swim a total of 100 miles in Indiana State Parks and be entered into an end-of-the-season prize drawing; all who complete receive a centennial lapel pin or coin.
- **Centennial Celebration Parties**– each property including homecoming for past staff, celebrate property anniversaries (dates vary across system).
- **National Park Service Every Kid in a Park** – accepting passes from 4th graders for free entry into Indiana State Parks (and State Forest Recreation Areas).
- **Traditional Arts Indiana** Events in several locations (dates to be determined).
- **Civilian Conservation Corps Reunions** – Pokagon State Park (July 31) and McCormick's Creek (Sept 25).
- **Volunteer Workdays** during National Volunteer Week and on National Public Lands Day.
- **National Association of State Park Directors Annual Conference** (NASPD) - French Link Springs Hotel. (September 6-9, 2016).

Centennial Legacy Projects (Facility Dedications)

Dedicated with a special bronze plaque and branded publicity. Other projects may be added.

- Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center Exhibits (January 8, 2016)
- Rose Island Interpretive Trail (March 18, 2016)
- Lieber Memorial Restoration(April 15, 2016)

- Pokagon CCC Gatehouse Restoration and Exhibits (July 31, 2016)
- Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA) Bike Trail Campground to Beach (May, 2015)
- Prophetstown Peace Pole with federally recognized Tribes (Summer, 2016)
- Prophetstown Bike Trail Extension and entrance road completion (Fall, 2016)

Marketing and Communication Tools

- Centennial theme for annual passes and expanded Indiana Recreation Guide.
- State park entrance gate banners celebrating the centennial.
- Outdoor Indiana Magazine features including an article on Col. Richard Lieber and a state park development timeline in Jan-Feb, 2016, plus completion of the last 4 of 32 Centennial Booklets about each of our properties.
- New “History of Indiana State Parks” brochure (online and print versions).
- Weekly social media history postings (Facebook/Twitter) beginning December 16 (daily during summer 2016) that can be shared by other partners and agencies.
- DNR Media Releases for “100 Days” and for events and dedications.
- Partnerships with Indiana Office of Tourism Development during Visit Indiana week.
- Partnership with Indiana RV Association – wrapped RV with centennial logo that visits events/sites and includes web/media coverage.
- Centennial lapel pin for uniforms for all Indiana State Parks staff.
- Centennial sales items available in state park gift shops and online at www.innsgifts.com.
- *Indiana State Parks* (includes a section on reservoirs) book of photos by Matt Williams (privately sponsored.)

Indiana Bicentennial Participation

- Bicentennial Torch Relay visits some state parks.
- New “Arts in the Parks” programs in state parks across Indiana in partnership with Indiana Arts Commission.
- Indiana State Parks Endorsed Bicentennial Legacy Projects:
 - Centennial Activities (100 Days for 100 Years)*
 - Centennial Booklets*
 - Traditional Arts Indiana Events *
 - Indiana State Parks: Treasures in Your Own Backyard DVD*
 - Indiana State Parks Centennial Curriculum*
 - Lieber Memorial Restoration*
 - Indiana State Parks Centennial Launch: Countdown to 100.+
- Other Endorsed Bicentennial Legacy Projects Associated with Indiana State Parks:
 - Plein Air paintings by Rick Wilson from each of our properties in an exhibit in Richmond*
 - Indiana Bicentennial Hikes, sponsored by Indianapolis Hiking Club, includes a hike at 24 state parks. +
 - Bicentennial Birding Big Year, sponsored by the Indiana Audubon Society, which will include finding 100 bird species on our properties.+

*Endorsed

+Awaiting endorsement



Links and Information

- State Parks Centennial Page: www.INStateParks100.com
- State Parks Cultural History Page: www.stateparks.IN.gov/2410.htm
- Indiana Bicentennial: www.indiana2016.org
- Indiana Historical Bureau: www.in.gov/history

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Indiana State Parks

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